UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/635,217	08/10/2000	Takayuki Tamura	566.38877X00	6505

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EXAMINER
BATAILLE, PIERRE MICHE

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2186	17

DATE MAILED: 11/05/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

PTO-90C (Rev. 10/03)

Advisory Action	**Application No.** 09/635,217	**Applicant(s)** TAMURA ET AL.
	Examiner Pierre-Michel Bataille	**Art Unit** 2186

--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

THE REPLY FILED 20 October 2003 FAILS TO PLACE THIS APPLICATION IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE. Therefore, further action by the applicant is required to avoid abandonment of this application. A proper reply to a final rejection under 37 CFR 1.113 may <u>only</u> be either: (1) a timely filed amendment which places the application in condition for allowance; (2) a timely filed Notice of Appeal (with appeal fee); or (3) a timely filed Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in compliance with 37 CFR 1.114.

<u>PERIOD FOR REPLY</u> [check either a) or b)]

a) ☒ The period for reply expires <u>3</u> months from the mailing date of the final rejection.

b) ☐ The period for reply expires on: (1) the mailing date of this Advisory Action, or (2) the date set forth in the final rejection, whichever is later. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of the final rejection. ONLY CHECK THIS BOX WHEN THE FIRST REPLY WAS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE FINAL REJECTION. See MPEP 706.07(f).

Extensions of time may be obtained under 37 CFR 1.136(a). The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. The appropriate extension fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a) is calculated from: (1) the expiration date of the shortened statutory period for reply originally set in the final Office action; or (2) as set forth in (b) above, if checked. Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of the final rejection, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

1. ☒ A Notice of Appeal was filed on <u>20 October 2003</u>. Appellant's Brief must be filed within the period set forth in 37 CFR 1.192(a), or any extension thereof (37 CFR 1.191(d)), to avoid dismissal of the appeal.

2. ☐ The proposed amendment(s) will not be entered because:

    (a) ☐ they raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search (see NOTE below);

    (b) ☐ they raise the issue of new matter (see Note below);

    (c) ☐ they are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal; and/or

    (d) ☐ they present additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims.

        NOTE: _____.

3. ☐ Applicant's reply has overcome the following rejection(s): _____.

4. ☐ Newly proposed or amended claim(s) _____ would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claim(s).

5. ☒ The a)☐ affidavit, b)☐ exhibit, or c)☒ request for reconsideration has been considered but does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: <u>see attached</u>.

6. ☐ The affidavit or exhibit will NOT be considered because it is not directed SOLELY to issues which were newly raised by the Examiner in the final rejection.

7. ☒ For purposes of Appeal, the proposed amendment(s) a)☐ will not be entered or b)☒ will be entered and an explanation of how the new or amended claims would be rejected is provided below or appended.

    The status of the claim(s) is (or will be) as follows:

    Claim(s) allowed: <u>none</u>.

    Claim(s) objected to: <u>none</u>.

    Claim(s) rejected: <u>1,2 and 6-16</u>.

    Claim(s) withdrawn from consideration: <u>3-5</u>.

8. ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is a)☐ approved or b)☐ disapproved by the Examiner.

9. ☐ Note the attached Information Disclosure Statement(s)(PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____.

10. ☐ Other: _____

10/20/2003

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1.   This Office Action is responsive to Applicant's communication filed October 20,

2003 in response to the Office Rejection dated June 20, 2003. Applicant's arguments

and/or amendments have been considered with the results that follow.

2.   Claims 1-2, and 16-16 are now pending in the application.

3.   The amendment has been entered and fully considered, but not make the

application in condition for allowance for at least the following remarks.

DeRoo's disclosure features the process of reprogramming the EEPROM for

routine system software maintenance to prevent the EEPROM be left in a partially

erased and unusable state or to prevent that the system become inoperable due to

unauthorized write/erase to the EEPROM. The system makes certain that in-circuit re-

programming is limited to a selected portion of the EEPROM, generally the boot block.

DeRoo's system defines predetermined address range storing non-protected or user

data accessible by the CPU and predetermined address range for storing

predetermined program instructions (or critical data) for the system control processor

(SCP). "Hardware protection of a password or other critical system data is provided by

designating a segment of the common memory device 704 as a restricted segment. In

the preferred embodiment, the lowest 256 bytes of the common memory device 704 fall

may within the restricted segment. All passwords or the critical system data are stored

in the lowest 256 bytes of the shared memory device 704. The circuitry of this invention selectively blocks access by the CPU 702 to the restricted segment. The SCP 706 continues to have access to the restricted segment of the common memory device 704."

With the above remark, it is clear that DeRoo teaches: a) definition of a predetermined protected address range in a memory device corresponding to said predetermined readable and writable address range of a predetermined selectable variable size; b) responsive to said addressing signals, preventing or erase and write commands of said programmable memory device for addresses corresponding to said protected address range in said memory device to the CPU while the SPC accesses the programmable memory device for addresses corresponding to said protected address range.
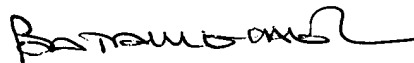
Conclusion

4.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Pierre-Michel Bataille whose telephone number is (703) 305-0134. The examiner can normally be reached on Tue-Fri (7:30A to 6:00P).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Matthew M. Kim can be reached on (703) 305-3821. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 746-7239 for regular communications and (703) 746-7238 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or

proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-

3900.

Pierre-Michel Bataille
Examiner
Art Unit 2186

November 3, 2003